

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1-11 were pending. Claims 1 and 4-7 have been rewritten and Claims 12-22 added. No new matter has been added as a result of this amendment. Claims 1-22 are pending after entry of this amendment.

IDS

Applicants submitted an IDS on September 1, 2003, at the same time as the filing of the application. The PAIR system indicates that the IDS has been placed in the file. However, Applicants have not yet received an initialed copy of the 1449 submitted with the IDS. Applicants thus respectfully request that the Examiner provide an initialed copy of the 1449 in the next Office Action.

Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ohwada (U.S. Patent 6,692,134). Applicants have rewritten Claim 1 and submit that amended Claim 1 overcomes the rejection. Applicants have rewritten Claims 4-7 for grammatical reasons only.

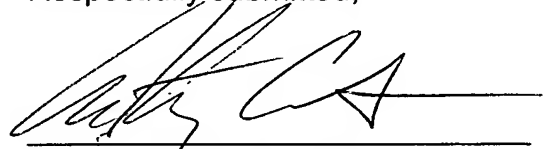
Claim 1 recites, inter alia, that the width of the cover tapers toward an opening portion. In Ohwada, however, the cover is substantially rectangular, that is, the width remains substantially constant from the closed portion to the opening portion. Accordingly, Claim 1 is patentable over Ohwada.

New Claim 13 recites, inter alia, that the cover contains a protrudent portion provided on an upper inner surface of the bracket-shaped cover at a position corresponding to a top of the bar-shaped light source. The protrudent portion pinches the light source. The cover pinches the light guiding plate by the opening portion. In Ohwada, on the other hand, the protrudent portion pinches the light guiding plate 12, not the light source 13. Nor does Ohwada anticipate or disclose an arrangement in which the cover both pinches the light guiding plate by the opening portion and contains a protrudent portion that pinches the light source. Accordingly, Claim 13 is patentable over Ohwada.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that a telephone interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony P. Curtis', is written over a horizontal line.

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